

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 451

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jim Arp for his contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary musical talent is Jim Arp, a longtime resident of Belmont, who was recently honored with induction into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in Burns, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed Mr. Arp has been involved in the music business his whole life; a mainstay at WKMT-AM in Kings Mountain, Jim Arp has lent his talents as a disc jockey there for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, from his first harmonica, Mr. Arp moved on to the guitar, and then vocals; an Elvis look-alike as a young man, he played the country music circuit for several years, performed as the lead singer for several groups, and sang solo performances; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arp traveled for several years with the Del Rays as their lead singer, recording the popular *Not Too Young*, which was penned by Carroll Ludwick; and

WHEREAS, Jim Arp also opened shows for artists such as Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Conway Twitty, and Loretta Lynn, as well as the Sparkletones, the Champs, the Royal Teens, and the Blue Notes; and

WHEREAS, during his years of performing, Mr. Arp, often referred to as "Little Lonely" due to his resemblance to Mr. Presley, became extremely popular in Europe; and

WHEREAS, a prolific writer, Mr. Arp has written songs for a variety of Rockabilly artists who have recorded his music, including Narvel Felts, James Williamson, and Frank Anthony; in

addition to writing songs and poems, Jim Arp has also written for a newspaper chain, as well as two books on Hank Williams, and fantasy and science-fiction stories; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Jim Arp has also lent his professional abilities to several locally-produced movies, such as *Sign Off*, in which he plays himself as a former County-Western singer, *Country House*, in which he wrote the script, provided four songs, and played the leading man, and *Boots and the Preacher*, a feature film he starred in that was distributed by Paragon Pictures; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Jim Arp has received numerous awards, including the *Kings Mountain Herald's* 2005 Reader's Choice Award for Favorite Local Non Performing Artist, Radio Station of the Year, the Nashville Panel Report's Award for the national popularity of *Stolen Moments*, and the Academy of Independent Recording Artists' Male Vocalist of the Year/Country Division; he was also nominated twice for Male Vocalist of the Year in 1995 and 1999, for the *Nashville Tracker Magazine's* Golden Music Awards; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the musical contributions he made to his country, Jim Arp also proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the numerous contributions Jim Arp has made to Rockabilly music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jim Arp for bringing happiness to his countless fans and for playing a significant role in the growth of Rockabilly music, as we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.